

7 May 1985
MBK-5006

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - Bangkok Bureau - April 1985

I. GENERAL

A. An agreement was signed on 3 April between the bureau chief and the director general of the Thai Department of Aviation authorizing the installation of a satellite earth station at the Bang Ping receiver site. This capped an effort of more than a year to obtain such authorization from the Thai Government.

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B. The 10th anniversary of the communist victory in Saigon was celebrated with great fanfare. Vietnam opened its doors to a horde of Western newsmen who flooded not only Ho Chi Minh City but Bangkok -- the rear support area -- as well. Vietnam's publicity extravaganza appears to have backfired, however, as most of the reporting coming out of Vietnam during the month focused on the failure of the socialist system there. In contrast, the 10th anniversary of the Khmer Rouge victory in Phnom Penh was marked only with a very subdued ceremony in Phnom Penh in which the Heng Samrin government representatives criticized the Khmer Rouge as much as they did the Western "colonialists."

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. On the basis of a report appearing in a Thai publication not monitored by the bureau, MOD on 16 April reported that the clandestine Voice of the People of Thailand radio of the Thai Communist Party was once more said to be broadcasting on its old frequencies. The bureau had been maintaining cruising checks on these frequencies and was able to confirm that VOPT was not using them.

2. The clandestine Voice of the People of Burma, radio of the Burmese Communist Party, has been silent since 17 April. Technical difficulties offer the most likely explanation for this: VOPB did not announce formally that it was going off the air as two previously discontinued Southeast Asian clandestine radios had done, and it has had previous outages for technical reasons. However, the almost simultaneous announcement by Rangoon that Burmese leader Ne Win was about to visit the PRC -- for the first time in his capacity as ruling party leader -- has raised the possibility that Beijing has silenced the radio for political reasons. The bureau and AG are consulting on this development. ✓

3. The Malay-language broadcasts of the clandestine Voice of the People of Malaysia radio of the breakaway Malaysian Communist Party faction, which had been unheard at the bureau since March, became monitorable once more as of 28 April. No explanation was given of why these programs became unmonitorable while the radio's broadcasts in other languages continued to be heard.

4. Four small PAL color TV sets have been purchased and will be modified to provide a video array for the Thai section to help cope with the unannounced live military and civilian leader addresses that have occasionally been carried on one or more Bangkok TV stations.

B. Communications

The bureau's primary communications circuit was rehomed to Clark [redacted] on 4 April. This had the unexpected effect of cutting off our [redacted] altroute [redacted] which was, however, recovered by early May. The Clark circuit has thus far been shown to be less stable than the [redacted] primary circuit had been.

C. Technical

Associate Editor [redacted] has been training other editors and the chief monitor to use the IBM-PC located in the editorial room. Editor [redacted] has already created a file on the bureau's library holdings, while Chief Monitor [redacted] has created a publications subscription file and Senior Editor [redacted] has begun to input the editorial SOP book.

III. ADMINISTRATION

Buildings and Grounds

Antenna field maintenance at Bang Ping is almost completed after the setting and guying of four new concrete poles and the restringing of transmission lines. As usual, several large deadly snakes were killed in the antenna field. The bureau chief was presented with the skin of a viper (it has been left to AG to analyze the meaning). Both concrete air conditioner pads adjacent to the Bang Ping building had sunk and had to be replaced. A cluster of piles was used to retard the inevitable sinking of the new pads.

IV. VISITS

A. State Department health and safety inspectors Larry McGintz and Mark Miktavage surveyed the bureau on 2 April.

B. Engineering Staff's [redacted] and ROSET contractors [redacted] and [redacted] conducted a survey of the Bang Ping receiver site and held meetings with local contractors and with the embassy's Customs and Shipping office 29 April - 4 May in anticipation of the delivery and installation of the ROSET equipment.

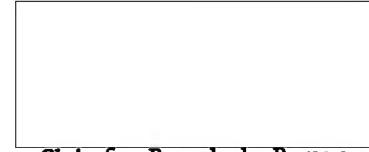
C. The bureau chief was in Headquarters for the Bureau Chiefs' Conference 15-24 April and observed Panama Bureau's ROSET, 29 April - 1 May, returning to the bureau on 4 May.

V. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

STAT Deputy Chief [redacted] spearheaded a semiofficial American Community-Bangkok Community Theatre-Bangkok Music Society full-scale production of the Broadway musical "Fiddler on the Roof" at the American University Association Auditorium 18 - 20 April. The opening night charity performance, presided over by 1st Army Region Commander Lt Gen Pichit Kullavanich (a major figure in Thailand) and by American Ambassador John Gunther Dean, raised nearly 100,000 baht for General Pichit's favorite charity. Joining General Pichit, the Deans, the USIS director and the [redacted] in the dignitaries box were Thai DCI Piya Chakkaphak and various Thai military leaders. In the country team meeting following the financially and critically successful production, the Ambassador remarked favorably on the timely melding of the cultural event with embassy goals.

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Chief, Bangkok Bureau

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Attachment:

Monthly Production Report

BANGKOK BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR APRIL 1985

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	690,590
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	280,060
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1,605

BROAD-CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLICATION
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<u>II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:</u> (minutes or issues per week)	19,685	20,450	251.00
	min.	min.	issues

<u>III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:</u> (publishable words per month)			
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AUSTRALIA

Melbourne Overseas Service in English	20,410
Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN in English	1,690
Sydney THE BULLETIN in English	1,260
Sydney THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN in English	0

BANGLADESH

Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali	350
Dhaka Domestic Service in English	1,350
Dhaka Overseas Service in Bengali	1,800
Dhaka Overseas Service in English	760
Dhaka BSS in English	230
Dhaka SANGBAD in Bengali	0
Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English	1,030

BRUNEI

Kuala Belait THE BORNEO BULLETIN in English	0
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BURMA

Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese	3,600
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	<u>BROAD-</u>	<u>PRESS</u>	<u>PUBLI-</u>
	<u>CASTS</u>	<u>AGENCIES</u>	<u>CATION</u>
Rangoon BOTATAUNG in Burmese			0
Rangoon LOKTHA PYEITHU NEZIN in Burmese.			0
Rangoon MYANMA ALIN in Burmese			0
Rangoon WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English			750

CHINA

Beijing International Service in Bengali	0
Beijing International Service in Burmese	860
Beijing International Service in Indonesian	2,540
Beijing International Service in Indonesian	650
Beijing International Service in Lao	280
Beijing International Service in Thai	0
Beijing in Cambodian to Kampuchea	7,980
Beijing in Hindi to India	0
Beijing in Malay to Malaysia	670
Beijing in Urdu to India and Pakistan	0

CLANDESTINE

(Clandestine) Vietnam Resistance Radio in Vietnamese	0
(Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian	35,430
(Clandestine) Voice of Malayan Democracy in Malay	5,690
(Clandestine) Voice of The National Army Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian	14,960
(Clandestine) Voice of The People of Burma in Burmese	1,110
(Clandestine) Voice of The People of Malaysia in Malay	0

HONG KONG

Hong Kong AFP in English	0
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<u>BROAD-</u>	<u>PRESS</u>	<u>PUBLI-</u>
<u>CASTS</u>	<u>AGENCIES</u>	<u>CATION</u>

INDIA

Delhi Domestic Service in English	60,410
Delhi General Overseas Service in English	4,710
Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English	1,230
Delhi PTI in English	2,870
Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English	1,520
Calcutta ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA in Bengali	0
Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English	1,680
Delhi INDIA TODAY in English	0
Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English	3,770
Delhi NATIONAL HERALD in English	460
Delhi PATRIOT in English	0
Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English	2,980
Madras THE HINDU in English	0

INDONESIA

Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian	27,690
Jakarta International Service in English	5,150
Jakarta BERITA BUANA in Indonesian	0
Jakarta JAKARTA POST in English	0
Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian	2,200
Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian	0
Jakarta SINAR HARAPAN in Indonesian	3,110
Jakarta TEMPO in Indonesian	0
Jakarta THE INDONESIA TIMES in English	0

KAMPUCHEA

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian	47,860
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<u>BROAD-</u>	<u>PRESS</u>	<u>PUBLI-</u>
<u>CASTS</u>	<u>AGENCIES</u>	<u>CATION</u>

Phnom Penh SPK in English	20,560
Phnom Penh SPK in French	7,070
Phnom Penh SPK in French to KPL Vientiane	0
Phnom Penh VNA in Vietnamese to VNA Hanoi	0

LAOS

Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao	42,890
Vientiane KPL in English	25,690
Vientiane KPL in English/French to SPK Phnom Penh	0
Vientiane SPK in French to SPK Phnom Penh	0
Vientiane VNA in Vietnamese to VNA Hanoi	0
Vientiane PASASON in Lao	0

MALAYSIA

Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English	8,700
Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in Malay	5,060
Kuala Lumpur International Service in English	16,160
Kuala Lumpur International Service in Malay	230
Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay	2,180
Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English	6,630
Kuala Lumpur NEW SUNDAY TIMES in English	0
Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA in Malay	390

NEPAL

Katmandu External Service in English	800
Katmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English	190

PAKISTAN

Karachi Domestic Service in English	14,250
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<u>BROAD-</u>	<u>PRESS</u>	<u>PUBLI-</u>
<u>CASTS</u>	<u>AGENCIES</u>	<u>CATION</u>

Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu	14,090
Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu	950

SINGAPORE

Singapore Domestic Service in English	4,050
Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English	2,360
Singapore THE SUNDAY TIMES in English	1,940

SRI LANKA

Colombo Domestic Service in English	0
Colombo Domestic Service in Tamil	190
Colombo International Service in English	9,240
Colombo International Service in Hindi	480
Colombo DAILY NEWS in English	60
Colombo SUN in English	0
Colombo WEEKEND in English	750

THAILAND

Bangkok Domestic Service in English	2,430
Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai	6,300
Bangkok First Army Division Radio in Thai	1,380
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Cambodian	160
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English	3,150
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Lao	0
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai	2,970
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Vietnamese	420
Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai	320
Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English	34,070
Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English	15,030

	<u>BROAD-CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLICATION</u>
Bangkok LAK THAI in Thai			0
Bangkok MATICHON SUT SAPDA in Thai			0
Bangkok MATICHON in Thai			720
Bangkok MATUPHUM in Thai			0
Bangkok PATINYA in Thai			0
Bangkok SIAM RAT SAPDA WICHAN in Thai			950
Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai			2,090
Bangkok SU ANAKHOT in Thai			1,790
Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai			1,830
Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English			33,580
Bangkok WIWAT in Thai			0

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Moscow International Service in Tamil	980
Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Indonesian	0
Moscow in Bengali to Bangladesh	0
Moscow in Burmese to Burma	0
Moscow in Cambodian to Kampuchea	7,950
Moscow in Hindi to India	3,240
Moscow in Indonesian to Indonesia	2,800
Moscow in Lao to Laos	3,840
Moscow in Thai to Thailand	0
Moscow in Urdu to India	0
Moscow in Urdu to Pakistan	0

UNITED KINGDOM

London BBC World Service in English	3,020
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<u>BROAD-</u>	<u>PRESS</u>	<u>PUBLI-</u>
<u>CASTS</u>	<u>AGENCIES</u>	<u>CATION</u>

VIETNAM

Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese	75,800
Hanoi International Service in Cambodian	0
Hanoi International Service in English	8,370
Hanoi International Service in Thai	2,190
Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese to NHAN DAN Ho Chi Minh City	0
Hanoi VNA in English	1,860
Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese	7,600
Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese	11,900
Hanoi TAP CHI CONG SAN in Vietnamese	0